

## Claims

- [c1] A method for securely communicating with a server program using a secure hypertext transfer protocol which by default uses a first port number associated therewith, said method practiced in connection with a hypertext transfer protocol which defaults to the use of a second port number associated therewith, said method comprising:
- (a) configuring the server program so that it listens for requests for secure hypertext transfer protocol sessions on the second port number rather than the first port number;
  - (b) receiving at the server program on the second port number a first data packet in a manner that is consistent with the secure hypertext transfer protocol, except that the request is received on the second port number rather than the first port number;
  - (c) outputting from the server program a response to the first data packet in a manner that is consistent with the secure hypertext transfer protocol, except that the request was received on the second port number rather than the first port number.
- [c2] [c1] The method of claim 1 wherein the secure hypertext transfer protocol is the https protocol and the hypertext transfer protocol is the http protocol.
- [c3] [c1] The method of claim 1 wherein the first port number is 443 and the second port number is 80.
- [c4] [c1] The method of claim 1 wherein, before the first data packet is received by the server program on the second port, it passes through a system that is configured in a manner that would block the first data packet if the first data packet were addressed to the first port.
- [c5] [c1] The method of claim 1 further comprising the following additional step:  
after step (a), directing a client program to request information from the server program using a resource locator comprising an indication to use the secure hypertext transfer protocol and an indication to use the second port number.
- [c6] [c4] The method of claim 4 further comprising the following additional step:  
after step (a), directing a client program to request information from the server program using a resource locator comprising an indication to use the secure hypertext transfer protocol and an indication to use the second port number.
- [c7] [c1] The method of claim 1 further comprising the following additional step:



after step (a), directing a client program to post information to the server program using a resource locator comprising an indication to use the secure hypertext transfer protocol and an indication to use the second port number.

[c8] [c4] The method of claim 4 further comprising the following additional step:  
after step (a), directing a client program to post information to the server program using a resource locator comprising an indication to use the secure hypertext transfer protocol and an indication to use the second port number.

[c9] [c1] The method of claim 1 wherein at least one step is performed using the Internet.

[c10] A method for operating a web server system comprising:  
(a) configuring the web server system to use port 80 for communications using a protocol selected from the group consisting of: secure socket layer, secure sockets layer, SSL, secure hypertext transfer protocol, and HTTPS;  
(b) receiving at port 80 at the web server system a first data packet that is formatted in accordance with the protocol; and  
(c) responding to the first data packet with a second data packet that is formatted in accordance with the protocol.

[c11] A web server system comprising:  
(a) web server software configured to use port 80 for communications using a protocol selected from the group consisting of: secure socket layer, secure sockets layer, SSL, secure hypertext transfer protocol, and HTTPS;  
(b) means for receiving at port 80 at the web server system a first data packet that is formatted in accordance with the protocol; and  
(c) means for responding to the first data packet with a second data packet that is formatted in accordance with the protocol.

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